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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Military Information from the Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds		
	617546		
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT		DATE PREPARED	24 February 1954
DATE OBTAINED			
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			

1. At about 10:30 a.m. on 3 February 1954, 9 canvas-covered rocket launchers, [redacted] passed through Wittstock, proceeding toward Schweinrich. On 4 and 5 February, firing was heard from the direction of Schweinrich. 1
2. At about 1 p.m. on 1 February, reports of artillery and machine guns were heard from the direction of the Schweinrich cantonment. At about 3:30 p.m., noises of tank engines were heard from a northerly direction. 2 Between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on 2 February, heavy fire by rocket launchers was heard from the direction of Schweinrich.<sup>1</sup> On 3 February, a shipment of several boxcars, 8 tanks and 6 to 7 trucks on flatcars passed through Wittstock.<sup>2</sup> Local residents, stated that, about 23 January, several shipments with tanks came from the direction of Wittstock and went toward Dranse during the night. 2
3. [redacted] during the night on 28/29 January, the units stationed in the Neu-Glienicke area left toward Neuruppin via Steinberge. During the following night, the area was occupied by new units, which arrived from the direction of Wallitz and included 12 tanks, [redacted] and trucks [redacted]. A second column arrived via Basdorf north of Neuglienicke. The troops were quartered in earth bunkers in Jagen (forest section) Nos 92, 113, 115, 142 and 138 near Neuglienicke. On 4 February, 5 trucks with AA guns arrived from the direction of Neuruppin. The trucks, [redacted] returned toward Neuruppin, while the AA guns remained in Jagen Nos 92 and 115.
4. Between 23 and 28 January, construction of field fortifications in the tank training area near Neuglienicke was intensified. At about 7 a.m. on 28 January, 1 sedan, 12 jeeps and 1 truck occupied by senior officers arrived at the training area, with control and guard personnel being employed. At about 7:30 a.m., new units, who arrived from the direction of Rheinsberg, were quartered in Jagen Nos 92, 112, 113, 115, 138, Neuglienicke. A column including T-34 tanks [redacted] and JS tanks [redacted] passed through Neuglienicke. Each tank was followed by a three-axle armored personnel carrier. A column of trucks, [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] towing 8 AA guns; and another column of 30 trucks were also observed. [redacted]

[redacted] On the same day, another column arrived at the tank training site, about 500 meters north of Neuglienicke. Firing was held from about 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 27 January. The targets had been trucked to the trainin area. Positions in the training area had been occupied as under warlike conditions. During the night on 29 January, troops stationed in the north section of the area east of Schweinrich left toward Neuglienicke. On 1 February, [redacted] dug-in tanks fired toward south at dummy tanks and houses at 6 firing lanes. The troops took position in earth bunkers, about 1.5 meters deep and covered with brushwood. On 2 February, the area was again restricted and new troops had occupied the old positions. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] From the tracks, [redacted] the troops had come from the direction of Rheinsberg. On 3 February, the tank firing practice was held between 7:30 a.m. and about 4 p.m. On 5 February, the troops were still in their quarters. During the night on 1 February, the troops in the Rheinsberg-Zechow-Braunsberg area left toward Schweinrich. Between about 7 p.m. on 4 February, and 6 a.m. on 5 February, new troops arrived from the direction of Neuruppin, proceeding via Lindow-Koepernitz-Rheinsberg-Zechow. The tanks did not pass over the bridge near Zechow, but forded the canal. The equipment of the unit among other materiel, included 10 tanks, [redacted] 3 armored personnel carriers and 7 trucks, [redacted] 25X1 Soviet officers stated that the troops at the Schweinrich troop training grounds were being inspected, with the exercises including firing in the Rheinsberg-Zechow area, advanced combat practice firing in the Schweinrich area and practices under warlike conditions in the Neuglienicke area. The units allegedly had come from Neuruppin. Subsequently, troops from other posts allegedly were to conduct firing practices at the Schweinrich troop training grounds. 3 25X1

- 25X1 25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the rocket launchers belonged to the Third Shock Army and are fairly definitely believed to have gone to firing practices at the Wittstock training area. [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 [redacted] it appears possible that these units went by rail from Guestrow to Ludwigslust and, from there, proceeded by road to the Wittstock training area. [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 2. [redacted] Comment. The observations are rather safely believed to be connected with the tank firing practices of the 18th Mecz Div. See [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 3. [redacted] Comment. Tank units of the 12th Gds Tank Div had been observed at advanced combat firing practices in the area west of Neuglienicke as early as mid-January and late January. See [redacted] The present information tends to indicate that the division, prior to early February, continued the exercises, with the troops being rotated between the abovementioned area and the also newly established firing lanes south of Gadow and the Schweinrich-Zechlin road. 25X1

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